



PRESS RELEASE

CREATING NEW SPACE FOR MANUFACTURERS IN CITIES

UPCOMING EVENT + NEW REPORT PROVIDE ROADMAP FOR REVIVING
LIGHT INDUSTRIAL REAL ESTATE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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From Monday, December 2 to Tuesday, December 3, the **Urban Manufacturing Alliance** (UMA) will join forces with the **Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development** (ANHD) in Pittsburgh, Pa. to help community development stakeholders gain the knowledge and resources they need to create more space for urban manufacturers.

The two-day workshop series is being hosted around the release of a new UMA report produced in partnership with the **Local Initiatives Support Corporation** (LISC) and titled “*All About the Jobs: Eight Mission Driven Industrial Developers On How Their Spaces Anchor Manufacturers and Support Local Economies*”. The first day of the event is designed for the mission-driven actors with manufacturing-focused real estate projects that are featured in the report, while the second day will be open to participants from the public and UMA’s broader network.

[Tickets and a full description and schedule for the second day of the event can be found here.](#)

Dozens of experts and organizations that support manufacturing from across the country will attend the second day to start generating real estate project ideas for urban manufacturers with affordability and community impact in mind. They’ll unpack challenges like how to finance these projects, how to make a light industrial multi-tenant space that’s also a community asset, creating shared language around terms like “placemaking” and “equity”, and more.

“The Urban Manufacturing Alliance has been closely looking into the real estate demands of urban manufacturers in recent years, and we’re thrilled to be joining one of our long-time partners, ANHD, to unite developers and dive into what we believe is an urgent topic,” said **Lee Wellington, Founding Executive Director of UMA**. “The 7800 Susquehanna building plays an important role for manufacturers in Pittsburgh, making it an excellent backdrop for this event. We hope it inspires attendees to come up with new strategies and ideas around industrial space.”



“ANHD is thrilled to be working alongside our friends at the Urban Manufacturing Alliance for a national conversation on the importance of mission-driven industrial developers to creative placemaking and ecosystem building,” said **Armando Moritz-Chapelliquen, Director of Capacity Building at ANHD**. “Our experiences in New York City of advancing zoning reforms, building private and public funding for local support services, and building the capacity of our members to develop new and affordable industrial space is important. We hope to share the blueprint we have been developing for cities focused on retaining good paying jobs and the broader discussion of equitable economic development.”

The event takes place at 7800 Susquehanna in Pittsburgh—a model light industrial real estate project that provides affordable rents to businesses while also acting as a community space to the surrounding neighborhood. **Citi Community Development, LISC, Deutsche Bank, and Bridgeway Capital** are sponsoring the event, with support from **the Richard King Mellon Foundation**.

“Bridgeway is pleased to host this convening at 7800 Susquehanna. The 7800 project demonstrates how mission-driven industrial development can catalyze economic activity in neighborhoods and contribute to a vibrant manufacturing ecosystem,” says **TJ Bogdewic, President and CEO of Bridgeway Capital**. “I believe that 7800 can serve as a model that inspires more investments in industrial spaces for the greatest community benefit.”

“*All About the Jobs*”, which will be released today, November 27 at UMA’s website (urbanmfg.org), was produced in partnership with LISC and stems from UMA’s years-long fascination with real estate possibilities for the 21st century urban manufacturer. The goal of this report is to celebrate the diverse range of mission-driven actors championing these types of projects across the U.S., gather useful insight from their models, and empower UMA’s broader membership with information they can use to begin addressing the real estate needs of production businesses in their cities.

Recent decades have seen U.S. manufacturing firms shift from large-scale, multi-hundred employee operations to smaller enterprises with niche space requirements. Through interactions with its national membership of 800 manufacturing practitioners in over 200 cities, UMA is finding that urban manufacturers are struggling to find good-quality, affordable industrial real estate nearby where they live and operate.

The mission-driven actors featured in “*All About the Jobs*” are responding to that shortage. They’re rehabilitating old manufacturing buildings, and raising up new ones, with affordability and community benefit front-of-mind. Most say that the end goal of these projects is to help anchor an industry in their cities that can provide family-sustaining jobs to residents from a range of educational backgrounds. Perhaps most interestingly, the majority didn’t have a background in light industrial real estate development before embarking on these projects;



some come from affordable housing, one is a financial institution, another is a cooperative of artists.

“Industrial manufacturing presents an important opportunity to create economic mobility for workers, and create vital and inclusive pathways to the middle class,” said **Gregory Schiefelbein, Director of Citi Community Development**. “Citi’s support of ANHD, LISC NYC, and other organizations have helped unlock the promise of mission-owned industrial space that can create and preserve quality manufacturing jobs, and we’re excited to share lessons learned from New York City at this important national convening.”

“Historically, the industrial and manufacturing sector has been an important resource for a livable wage which has been displaced for cities like New York over the years,” said **Lisa Talma, Vice President of Community Development Finance Group at Deutsche Bank**. “Deutsche Bank is pleased to support ANHD as they bolster the work of mission-driven developers to bring industrial and manufacturing job opportunities back to our urban centers.”

A follow-up email with a link to the new report will be sent the evening of Wednesday, November 27.

About UMA

urbanmfg.org

The Urban Manufacturing Alliance (UMA) is a national coalition of over 800 organizations and individuals in approximately 200 cities. Our mission is to build robust, environmentally sustainable, and inclusive urban manufacturing sectors. We focus on cultivating networks that learn from each other; sharing and amplifying what works between and within cities; and supporting the implementation of policies that encourage the development of sustainable, diverse, innovative, and equitable manufacturing in urban settings.

About ANHD

anhd.org

The Association for Neighborhood & Housing Development (ANHD) builds community power to win affordable housing and thriving, equitable neighborhoods for all New Yorkers. As a coalition of community groups across New York City, we use research, advocacy, and grassroots organizing to advance equity and justice in all five boroughs